



# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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October 17, 1978

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
President  
The Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

From the Last issue of News and Notes I have learned with pleasure that you are working on biography of Edward L Tatum, a man who was a great scientist and an outstanding personality.

I was very fortunate that shortly after my arrival to this country from Poland I was invited by Dr. Tatum to join his laboratory of Biochemical Genetics and since then for 13 years I was associated with him until his untimely death in November 1975 (in 1972 I became Associate Professor and during his protracted illness I was on his recommendation Acting Head of the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics ;this lasted since 1974 and a year after Dr. Tatum death).

During my long association with this brilliant man I have learned to appreciate his scientific genius and his unusual modesty, a very rare combination . The latter feature was evident on many occasions. One of them that happened during the last year of his life is particularly worth mentioning. In the course of my collaboration with Dr. Tatum on the biosynthesis of two peptide antibiotics Edeine A and B I found another small peptide which exhibits the inhibitory effect on human osteosarcoma. I decided to name it Tatumine after his name. He strongly rejected this idea but when I insisted he finally gave in.

I bear a great admiration and affection for this great man and all other members of his laboratory felt the same

way. There was an air of freedom and Dr.Tatum was able to create a very special climate of enthusiasm and dedication to our work. My scholarly and personal relationship with him was very close. I retain many memories which I'll be most happy to share with you if you think they may be of value for the biography of Dr.Tatum you are preparing now.

With warmest personal regards  
Sincerely yours,

*Zofia Borowska*

Zofia Borowska  
Associate Professor  
Laboratory of Microbiology